

September 16, 2013

VIA ECFS

EX PARTE

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket No. 13-18; Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers; AT&T Corp. Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Interstate Special Access Services, WC Docket No. 05-25, RM-10593*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 12, 2013, the undersigned, representing tw telecom inc., discussed the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-referenced E-Rate proceeding¹ with Trent Harkrader of the Wireline Competition Bureau. During the conversation, I stated that the Commission could advance its objective of ensuring that schools and libraries have affordable access to 21st Century broadband by establishing appropriate price constraints on special access services provided by incumbent LECs. This is because the broadband connections that underlie the services that the Commission seeks to make available at affordable prices to schools and libraries are special access circuits. Thus, if the Commission adopts rules that ensure that incumbent LECs charge reasonable prices for special access services, schools and libraries are more likely to be able to obtain access to affordable broadband.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Thomas Jones

cc: Trent Harkrader

¹ See *Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket No. 13-184 (rel. July 23, 2013).